

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 02793 241219Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2356
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KABUL 2793

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ECON, BGEN
SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIES TOUFIQUI

1. ALTHOUGH NOT YET OFFICIAL, MOHAMMAD HASHEN TOUFIQUI, PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES (MMI), HAS RESIGNED HIS POSITION. TOUFIQUI HAS NOT BEEN AT WORK FOR OVER A MONTH AND RECENTLY TOLD THE ECON COUNSELOR THAT HIS PLANS ARE TO FORM A JOINT-VENTURE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT TOUFIQUI, AS HAS HAPPENED ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, COULD BE CALLED BACK TO WORK BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT FOR OVER A YEAR HE HAS OPENLY STATED HIS DETERMINATION TO LEAVE HIS POSITION IN MMI.

2. TOUFIQUI WAS A RARITY AMONG AFGHAN BUREAUCRATS, A MAN OF ACTION WHO ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY TRIED TO HAMMER OUT A COURSE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY. IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF A CAUTIOUS, RISK-AVOIDING AND NOTORIOUSLY INEFFICIENT BUREAUCRACY, HE WAS AN ANOMALY, ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY LOST MORE BATTLES THAN HE WON. BUT HIS DEPARTURE LEAVES A LARGE GAP IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES AND WILL,
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WITHOUT DOUBT, HAVE A CONTINUING ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ABILITY OF THE AFGHANS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE SEVEN-YEAR PLAN.

3. TOUFIQUI'S DISSATISFACTION WAS BASED ON FRUSTRATION WITH THE BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES HE WAS FREQUENTLY

UNABLE TO OVERCOME. THE FINAL STRAW WAS THE NEW
AFGHAN CONSTITUTION WHICH DISQUALIFIED HIM (AS WELL
AS A NUMBER OF OTHER PROMINENT AFGHAN OFFICIALS) FROM
MINISTERIAL RANK BECAUSE OF HIS FOREIGN WIFE.

4. NO SUCCESSOR TO TOUFIQUI HAS YET BEEN NAMED. IN HIS
ABSENCE, THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES IS A
VERY QUIET PLACE AND NO FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE WIDE
RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SLATED FOR IMPLEMENTAION
DURING THE SEVEN-YEAR PLAN APPEARS VISIBLE.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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